

WE CLAIM:

1. A chewing gum comprising:  
a water-soluble portion;  
5 a water-insoluble portion;  
an encapsulated acid mixture comprising a mixture of at least two acidulants  
encapsulated in polyvinylacetate.

2. The chewing gum of Claim 1 wherein the acidulants include at least one  
10 acid selected from the group consisting of fumaric, malic, and tartaric acid.

3. The chewing gum of Claim 1 wherein the mixture of acidulants  
comprises approximately 0.1% to about 10% by weight of the chewing gum.

15 4. The chewing gum of Claim 1 wherein the mixture of acidulants  
comprises approximately 10% to about 40% by weight of the encapsulated acid  
mixture.

5. The chewing gum of Claim 1 wherein the mixture of acidulants  
20 comprises, by total weight percent:  
approximately 25% to about 65% fumaric acid;  
approximately 10% to about 50% malic acid; and  
approximately 0% to about 25% tartaric acid.

25 6. The chewing gum of Claim 1 wherein the mixture of acidulants  
comprises, by total weight percent:  
approximately 50% malic acid;  
approximately 41% fumaric acid; and  
approximately 9% tartaric acid.

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7. The chewing gum of Claim 1 wherein the polyvinyl acetate has a molecular weight range of approximately 20,000 to about 120,000.

8. The chewing gum of Claim 1 wherein the chewing gum is sugarless.

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9. A confectionery product comprising an acid mixture including at least fumaric acid and malic acid encapsulated by a coating of a hydrophobic polymer.

10. The confectionery product of Claim 8 wherein the acidulant comprises,  
10 by total weight percent:

approximately 25% to about 65% fumaric acid;

approximately 10% to about 50% malic acid; and

approximately 0% to about 25% tartaric acid.

15 11. The confectionery product of Claim 8 wherein the acid mixture comprises approximately 0.1% to about 10% by weight of the chewing gum.

12. The confectionery product of Claim 8 wherein the acid mixture comprises approximately 10% to about 40% by weight of the encapsulated acid  
20 mixture.

13. The confectionery product of Claim 8 including an oil that provides flavor.

25 14. The confectionery product of Claim 8 wherein the product is a chewing gum.

15. An edible acid mixture comprising:  
at least one particle of a mixture of acidulants including fumaric and malic acid;  
30 and  
polyvinyl acetate encapsulating the particle.

16. The acid mixture of Claim 14 wherein the mixture of acidulants comprises, by total weight percent:

- 5 approximately 25% to about 65% fumaric acid;  
approximately 10% to about 50% malic acid; and  
approximately 0% to about 25% tartaric acid.

17. The acid mixture of Claim 14 wherein the polyvinyl acetate has a molecular weight range of approximately 20,000 to about 120,000.

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18. The acid mixture of Claim 14 wherein the mixture of acidulants comprises approximately 10% to about 40% by weight of the acid mixture.

19. A method of producing an edible product including an acidulant  
15 comprising encapsulating acidulants including at least fumaric and malic acid in a hydrophobic polymer to produce an encapsulated acidulant.

20. The method of Claim 19 including the step of adding the encapsulated acidulant to a chewing gum.

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21. The method of Claim 19 including the steps of preparing particles that include the acidulants and coating the particles with the hydrophobic polymer.

22. The method of Claim 21 wherein the particles are coated by being  
25 extruded with the hydrophobic polymer.

23. The method of Claim 19 wherein the acidulants include tartaric acid.

24. The method of Claim 19 wherein the edible product is chewing gum.  
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25. The method of Claim 19 wherein the edible product is a confectionery product.